

After a Fashion

BY STEPHEN MACMILLAN MOSER



Rockin' at the Art Ball: John Roddick of the Andy Roddick Foundation, glamorous arts patron Sara Fox, and Garry Creath of Creath Real Estate.

photo by Stephen Arevalos

AT THE BALLET: This spring's social season seems particularly busy with one thing right after another. We went to the **Women on Their Toes** benefit at the **Hilton** for **Ballet Austin** – a classic ladies' luncheon with a **Cat Swanson** fashion show as entertainment. Austin designer Swanson's bright and soft **Quetzal** collection, recently shown in New York, is her most cohesive collection yet. **My tablemates were Lance Morgan, who knows everyone; Janice Burckhardt** (wife of artist **Marc Burckhardt**, whom we'll tell you about soon); Ballet Austin board members **Forrest Preece** and **Suzanne Lewellyn-Moore; Marcia Purvis** (she accepted the civic service award for her deceased aunt, the philanthropic powerhouse **Roberta Crenshaw**); and fave local celeb **Ron Olivieras**. Dropping by the table to visit were board president **Nora Linares-Moeller, Kelly and Pam Fielding of Paper & Ink, and Dianne Nicholas.**

ART BALL: I made my pilgrimage to the **Austin Museum of Art's** annual **Art Ball** at the **Four Seasons**. Year after year, this is such a great party – a live auction of fabulous art including works from **Annie Leibovitz** and **Ed Ruscha**, wonderful, dazzling guests, excellent cause ... who could ask for more? Upon entering, I ran into **Anne Elizabeth Wynn**, who is a luminous beauty and one of the chicest public figures, then visited with my dear friend **Margaret Shaw**. My NBF (new best friend) **Sara Fox** glowed in her silver **Versace**, as did her pal **Leanne Raesener** in **Prada**. At the afterparty, where **Fastball** was playing, I went up to the force that is known as **Deborah Green** to tell her what a fabulous time I had at her pre-Texas Film Hall of Fame party ... and she made me dance. Dear god, I didn't want to dance; I gave that up many dress sizes ago – but she made me. I was trying to make the best of it, but she's a tough babe to keep up with. Everything was fine until my heel slipped off the dance floor, and I landed flat on my back. You can imagine what a pretty sight that was. But when the gracious Deborah put out her hand to help me, I was transfixed by her **Harry Winston** diamond bracelet, which lured me up off the floor like a spirit in the night. This is a woman who knows how to enjoy her accomplishments. There were a lot of big jewels there: I examined a glittering armload of antique Art Deco diamond bracelets on **Mary Ellen Golden**, who sparkles even without diamonds, and honorable mention goes to whoever the woman was wearing the ruby and diamond breastplate – way to go, babe. We visited with artist **Brad** and **Cindi Ellis** (his art is currently on display at **D Berman Gallery** and at www.bradellisart.com); designer **Jerri Kunz** and partner **John McCullough; Chris Wellington** (www.wellingtondesigns.com) of **Lone Star Media** and

John Saba Jr. of the attorney general's office (together, they are part of the country band **San Saba County**, playing this Friday, April 22 at **Trophy's**, and April 28 at **Beerland**); **Kateri Gemperle** and **Ginger Roddick** of the **Andy Roddick Foundation** (Gasp: Even I can't get invited to the foundation's swank but oh-so-private event next week at the Four Seasons starring **Sir Elton John**, with supermodel **Cindy Crawford** and **Donna Summer** in attendance, benefiting various children's charities.); **Laya** and **Glen Oswald** of the **Oswald Gallery**; artist **Bob Wade** and the effervescent **Lisa**; **Heather Brand** of the **Bob Bullock Museum**; arts patron **Johnny Neill**; and others too fabulous to mention. Even **Michael** and **Susan Dell** drifted past. I gotta say, Susan, you look beautiful and your new hairdresser is so much better than your old one.

UPCOMING: The **UT Fashion Show** is this Friday, April 22 at the Erwin Center – always surprising, always packed, and always free. Thursday, April 28, 6:30-9:30pm, the **Umlauf Sculpture Garden and Museum** (605 Robert E. Lee Rd.) hosts its annual **Garden Party**, with food and drink by many of Austin's best restaurants, silent auction, and the **Nash Hernandez Orchestra**. The highlight of the evening is the **Celebrity Seeds Auction** featuring decorative terra cotta pots donated by Austin personalities including **Dusty Mangum**, **Governor and Mrs. Rick Perry**, **Jimmie Vaughan**, and **Kathy Womack**. Go to www.umlaufulsculpture.org for complete information. Friday, May 6, 6:30pm, is the **Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center's 2005 Gala and Silent Art Auction**. In such a wonderful setting, this is one of my favorite annual events. The center also announces their **Gardens on Tour** program beginning Saturday, May 7, a self-paced tour of six exceptional private gardens in Austin. Go to www.wildflower.org for further info.